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CANADA/YUKON RENEWABLE RESOURCE AGREEMENT EXTENDED

OTTAWA (April 15, 1982) -- Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, John Munro and Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Regional Economic Expansion, Herb Gray, today announced that they have signed a one-year extension to the Canada/Yukon Subsidiary Agreement on Renewable Resource Development. The Agreement has been forwarded to Dan Lang, the Yukon Minister responsible for Renewable Resources for his signature.

The Renewable Resource Agreement, originally signed in 1979, is a federal-territorial cost sharing arrangement to expand the renewable resource information base and to develop recreation and tourism facilities. The objective is to enable residents to take advantage of economic and employment opportunities in this field and to provide for effective federal-territorial co-ordination. The agreement has been extended to facilitate the effective expenditure of funds already allocated by allowing for the further refinement and implementation of projects proposed under the agreement.

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In announcing the extension, Mr. Munro emphasized the federal role in supporting economic development initiatives in the Yukon. Under the terms of this agreement the federal government provided \$4.5 million of the \$6.6 million total.

"I attach a high priority to ensuring that we use every program at our disposal to promote the involvement of Yukoners in the development of their economy," Mr. Munro noted. "Initiatives such as the Renewable Resource Development Agreement become critically important at the time of a general slowdown in the economy which is severely affecting the Yukon which is now highly dependent on non-renewable resource development".

Funds committed to date under the agreement have allowed for a compilation of an inventory of Yukon's renewable resources, the development of new multi-use campground facilities and the start of a resource corporation program to teach job skills.

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Agreement extended.

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